

The rejection of claims 1, 12, 13 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Best '796 is respectfully traversed.

The newly cited Best reference describes a system wherein an ISDN adaptor has an error rate detector so that there can be an alteration of the baud rate under circumstances of excessive error. Best is not at all concerned with the remote monitoring of network ports. The passages cited by the Examiner do not appear to support the contentions made in support of the grounds of rejection.

Claim 1 describes a method wherein the configuration of multiple devices, each having multiple ports, is being tested. Insofar as at all relevant, Best is concerned only with the specific problem of baud rate blocking in an ISDN adapter. Best does not describe the remote monitoring of individual network ports.

Column 10, lines 38-55 of Best describes only the structural relationship of a microprocessor core and its two full-duplex "hardware data link controllers" (HDLC) and a universal synchronous receiver and transmitter (UART). The control thereof is mentioned but not specified.

Column 4, lines 7-20 of Best merely refer in a general way to the desirability that an ISDN adapter should detect when a condition of baud rate blocking is likely to occur regardless of the baud rate to which the adapter is set.

Column 24, lines 40-47 of Best refer to the detection baud rate blocking by excessive communication errors for a known input, and forcing the adapter to relinquish a fixed speed setting and to return to autobaud operation.

Contrary to the Examiner's contentions, Best does not teach or suggest (in these or any other passages):

- (i) performing automated remote monitoring of each of a plurality of managed devices in the network,
- (ii) **for each port of a plurality of ports of each of said plurality of managed devices** on the network, accessing configuration information for each port **and its** respective associated link to a respective other device,
- (iii) **applying a series of interrogations to the configuration information** to determine whether **said each port and associated link** conform to at least one predetermined configuration criterion **for each of said duplex state and data transmission speed**,
- (iv) and when the configuration of **said each port and associated link** does not conform to said at least one predetermined configuration criterion, providing an indication of the non conformity that has been determined. (Our emphasis added).

These differences arise because Best is concerned only with the core operation of the adapter and is not running a remote check on all the relevant ports of a system in which the ports can all operate with different configurations. The testing of baud rate is performed within the terminal adapter in respect of the core operation of the adapter.

The rejections of the dependent claims are likewise erroneously based on these cited passages or on the passage at column 25, lines 1-62 (apparently cited to allegedly anticipate the determination whether "auto-negotiation" is switched on at both ends of a link, as in claim 15). However, auto-negotiation is completely absent from this passage. If the Examiner maintains

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this ground of rejection, he is requested to specify where the cited passage (or any other port of Best) actually discloses the specific feature (auto-negotiation) that is alleged to be found there.

The rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly made "obvious" by Best in view of Malalur '588 is also respectfully traversed.

Fundamental deficiencies of Best have already been noted with respect to parent claim 1.

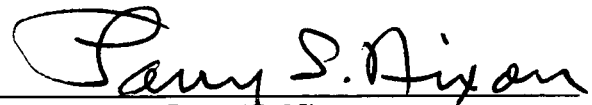
Malalur is cited to show the "automatic detection of trunk links". However, Malalur describes in the cited passage only the identification of known trunks; he does not describe there the testing and enabling of **ports** in the trunk.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Larry S. Nixon  
Reg. No. 25,640

LSN:vc  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100